



Practitioner's Docket No. 656,096

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: SOMERVILLE, Robin B.; FAN, Liang-Tseng  
Application No.: 010 / 089896 Group No.: 1764  
Filed: July 16, 2002 Examiner: Johnson, J.D.  
For: PROCESS FOR MODIFYING COAL SO AS TO REDUCE SULFUR EMISSIONS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
(37 C.F.R. 1.114)

1. Applicant hereby requests continued examination, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, for the above identified application.

**WARNING:** 35 U.S.C. 132(b) and § 1.114 provide for the continued examination of an application and *not* examination of a continuing application). Accordingly, the Office will not permit an applicant to obtain continued examination on the basis of claims that are independent and distinct from the claims previously claimed and examined. Notice of March 10, 2000; 65 Fed Reg 14865, at 14868.

**WARNING:** A continued examination request cannot be made if at least one office action under 35 U.S.C. 132 or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 161 has not been mailed. The provisions of 37 CFR 1.114 also do not apply (1) to a provisional application, an application for a utility or plant patent filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a); (2) an international application filed under 35 U.S.C. 363 before June 8, 1995; (3) a patent under reexamination or (4) an application for a design patent. 37 CFR 1.114(d).

**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of times the fee for continued examination may be submitted. Notice of March 10, 2000, 65 Fed Reg 14865, at 14868.

**NOTE:** Unlike a continuation application, a continued examination request *can* utilize the mailing procedure of 37 CFR 1.8. See 37 CFR § 1.8(a)(2)(i)(A).

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10\***

(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;  
Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

**MAILING**

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

37 C.F.R. § 1.10 \*

☒ with sufficient postage as first class mail.

☐ as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"

Mailing Label No. \_\_\_\_\_ (mandatory)

**TRANSMISSION**

☐ facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, (703) \_\_\_\_\_

01/19/2005 HALI11

00000025 10089896

01 FC:2801  
02 FC:2251

395.00 OP

60.00 OP

Signature

John S. Egbert

(type or print name of person certifying)

**TIME REQUEST IS BEING MADE**

2. This request is being submitted (*check appropriate item(s) below*):

- i. ☒ Prior to abandonment of the application
- ii. ☐ Payment of the issue fee
  - ☐ Prior to payment of issue fee
  - ☐ Issue fee has been paid but a petition under § 1.313 has been granted
- iii. ☐ Prior to a decision on appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences
  - ☐ A notice is being separately sent to the Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences that this Request for Continued Examination is being filed.

*NOTE: If such a notice is not sent to the Board then may refuse to vacate a decision rendered after the filing of the RCE but before recognition by the Office of the RCE request under § 1.114.*

- iv. ☐ Appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Federal Circuit under 35 U.S.C. 145 or ☐ Commencement of a civil action under 35 U.S.C. 146
  - ☐ Prior to the filing of such appeal or commencement of civil action
  - ☐ Such appeal or commencement of civil action has been terminated

**ENCLOSURES**

3. Enclosed herewith is/are:

**WARNING:** *If reply to a final or non-final Office action under 35 U.S.C. 132 is outstanding, the submission must meet the reply requirements of § 1.111. 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(b).*

- ☐ An information disclosure (37 C.F.R. § 1.98)
  - ☐ Form PTO-1449 (PTO/SB/08A and 08B)
- ☒ An amendment
- ☒ New arguments
- ☐ New evidence in support of patentability
- ☐ Other:

**FEE FOR REQUEST (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)).**

4. This application is on behalf of:

- ☒ Small entity (and status is still as small entity) . . . . . \$355.00
- ☐ Other than a small entity . . . . . \$710.00

Continued Prosecution Request Fee \$ 395

## FEE FOR CLAIMS

**NOTE:** "The fee for continued examination under § 1.114 (§ 1.17(e)) does not include additional claims fee (cf. 1.53 (d)(3)(ii))." See Notice of March 10, 2000, 65 Fed Reg 14865, at 14868.

37 CFR 1.53(d)(3): "The filing fee for a continued prosecution application filed under this paragraph is:

(i) The basic filing fee as set forth in § 1.16; and

Any additional § 1.16 fee due based on the number of claims remaining in the application after entry of any amendment accompanying the request for an application under this paragraph and entry of any amendments under § 1.116 unentered in the prior application which applicant has requested to be entered in the continued prosecution application."

5. The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY		
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE	OR	RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL	MINUS	=	x\$9 =	\$		x\$18 =	\$
INDEP.	MINUS	=	x\$40 =	\$		x\$80 =	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM			+ \$135 =	\$		+ \$270 =	\$
				TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	\$

\* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

\*\* If the "Highest No. Previously Paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

\*\*\* If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest No. Previously Paid For" (Total or Indep.) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

**WARNING:** See 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

(complete (c) or (d), as applicable)

(c) ☒ No additional fee is required.

OR

(d) ☐ Total additional fee required is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

## EXTENSION OF TIME

(If an extension of time is appropriate complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

6. The proceedings herein are for a patent application, and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) apply.

(a) ☐ Applicant petitions for an extension of time, the fees for which are set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1)-(4), for the total number of months checked below:

Extension for (months)	Fee for other than small entity	Fee for small entity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> one month	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> two months	\$ 390.00	\$ 195.00
<input type="checkbox"/> three months	\$ 890.00	\$ 445.00
<input type="checkbox"/> four months	\$ 1,390.00	\$ 695.00

Fee: \$ 60

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(check and complete the next item, if applicable)

☐ An extension for \_\_\_\_\_ months has already been secured, and the fee paid therefor of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$ 60

OR

(b) ☐ Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this is a conditional petition and authorization to pay the necessary fees to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

## TOTAL FEE(S) DUE

**WARNING:** The fee for continued examination under § 1.114 may not be deferred. 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f).

7. The total fee(s) due is/are:

Continued Prosecution Fee (§ 1.17(e))	\$ <u>395</u>
Fee(s) for additional claims (if any) (§ 1.16(b)-(d))	\$ <u>0</u>
Extension of time fee (if any) (§ 1.17(a)(1)-(4))	\$ <u>60</u>
Total Fee(s) Due	\$ <u>455</u>

### PAYMENT OF FEE(S) DUE

8. Please pay the fee(s) for this continued examination application as follows:

- ☐ Check is attached for the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Charge Account 08-0879 the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Charge Credit Card the sum of \$ 455
- (Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) attached)

Please charge any required additional fee(s) for § 1.17(e), § 1.16(b)-(d) and/or § 1.17(a)(1)-(4) to

- ☒ Account 080879
- ☐ Credit Card (Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) attached).

### INVENTORSHIP

*NOTE: Any change of inventors must be via the procedure set forth in 37 CFR § 1.48. See Notice of March 10, 2000, 65 Fed Reg 14865, at 14868.*

9. This application as amended names as inventors:

- ☒ the same inventors as previously designated for the claims.
- ☐ fewer than the inventors previously designated and a statement accompanies this request for the deletion of the name or names of the person or persons who are not inventors of the invention now being claimed.
- ☐ a person not named previously as an inventor and a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48 is/has separately: ☐ being filed ☐ been filed

### DEFERRAL OF EXAMINATION

10. ☐ A request for deferral of examination accompanies this request for continued examination.

Reg. No.: 30627

Tel. No.: ( 713 ) 224-8080

Customer No.: 24106

  
SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

John S. Egbert

(type or print name of practitioner)

Harrison & Egbert  
412 Main St., 7th floor

P.O. Address

Houston, Texas 77002



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: SOMERVILLE, ROBIN B.

SERIAL NO.: 10/089,896

ART UNIT: 1764

FILED: July 16, 2002

EXAMINER: JOHNSON, J.D.

TITLE: PROCESS FOR MODIFYING COAL SO AS TO REDUCE SULFUR EMISSIONS

AMENDMENT "B"

Director of the U.S. Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of September 27, 2004, a response being due with a Request for Continued Examination by December 27, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendment B: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claims 21 - 39 substitute Claims 40 - 58 therefor as follows:

Claims 1 - 20 (canceled by a previous amendment).

Claims 21 - 39 (canceled herein).

40. (new) A method of utilizing a coal product having reduced sulfur emissions comprising:

grinding a raw coal material into a coal powder having a desired particle size;

agglomerating said coal powder with fresh hydrated lime in an enclosed vessel, said fresh hydrated lime being generally unexposed to atmospheric carbon dioxide;

adding water to the agglomeration of coal powder and fresh hydrated lime in